

CLAIMS:

1. Extraction process comprising extracting a raw extract from *Emblica officinalis* wherein the extraction is conducted under conditions of time, temperature and atmosphere, to inhibit the formation of black specks and/or oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins and/or oxidation products thereof.
2. A process according to Claim 1, comprising inhibiting the formation of said oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins having a molecular weight above 1000.
3. Process of producing a powdered extract of *Emblica officinalis*, comprising the step of drying an aqueous solution of the extract, wherein the drying is conducted under conditions of time, temperature and atmosphere so as to inhibit the formation of oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins and/or oxidation products thereof and/or black specks.
4. A process according to Claim 3 comprising inhibiting the formation of said oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins having a molecular weight above 1000.
5. A process comprising enriching an extract of *Emblica officinalis*, comprising the steps of :
 - A) providing an aqueous suspension of *Emblica officinalis*, said aqueous suspension containing dissolved components of *Emblica officinalis* and water-insoluble components comprising black specks and/or oligomeric and polymeric tannins; and
 - B) separating the insoluble components from said dissolved components to obtain an enriched aqueous extract of *Emblica officinalis*.

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6. A process according to Claim 5, further comprising a preceding step of dispersing a powdered extract of *Emblica officinalis* in an aqueous solution to form said aqueous suspension.
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7. A process according to at least one of claims 5 to 6, wherein said separating comprises subjecting said suspension to centrifugation or pressure filtration.
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8. A process according to at least one of claims 5 to 7, wherein said separating comprises adding a filter-aid to said aqueous suspension and filtering out the insoluble components of the suspension so as to obtain an enriched aqueous filtrate of *Emblica officinalis*.
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9. A process according to at least one of claims 5 to 8, wherein said aqueous suspension has a concentration of 5-30% by weight, preferably 18-22% by weight of total solids of *Emblica officinalis*.
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10. A process according to at least one of claims 5 to 9, comprising subjecting said aqueous suspension to sufficient centrifugation to obtain an enriched extract of *Emblica officinalis* macroscopically substantially to completely devoid of black specks.
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11. A process according to at least one of claims 5 to 10, further comprising drying the separated enriched aqueous extract of *Emblica officinalis*.
12. A process according to at least one of claims 5 to 11, wherein said drying step comprises spray drying or freeze drying.
13. A process according to at least one of claims 5 to 12, comprising drying said solution of *Emblica officinalis* under conditions of time,

temperature and atmosphere so as to inhibit the formation of oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of over 1000.

- 5 14. An extract of *Emblica officinalis* produced by the process of at least one of claims 1, 3, 5 or 6.
- 10 15. Powdered composition of *Emblica officinalis*, the improvement wherein said composition is macroscopically substantially to completely devoid of black specks.
- 15 16. Powdered composition of *Emblica officinalis*, wherein such composition contains at least 70% by weight of bio-active low molecular weight hydrolysable tannins.
- 20 17. Powdered composition of *Emblica officinalis*, wherein the composition contains less than 5% by weight of oligomeric and polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of above 1000, preferably less than 5% by weight of oligomeric and polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of above 2000, and especially preferred less than 5% by weight of oligomeric and polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of above 3000.
- 25 18. Powdered composition of *Emblica officinalis* according to at least one of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that the composition comprises one or more water soluble diluents, preferably selected from the group comprising lactose, mannitol, dextrates, maltodextrin, dextrin, dextrose, and sucrose, wherein the diluents are preferably present in an amount of 10 to 60 % by weight.

19. A skin or hair or personal care composition formed from ingredients comprising a powdered composition according to at least one of claims 15 to 18.
- 5 20. A skin or personal care composition according to claim 19 in the form of a lotion, crème, stick, spray or gel.
21. A skin or personal care composition according to at least one of claims 19 to 20 which contains about 0.05 to 5% of said tannins.
- 10 22. A pharmaceutical or nutritional composition formed from ingredients comprising a powdered composition according to at least one of claims 15 to 18 in the form of a tablet, capsules, elixir, syrup, or drinks.
- 15 23. A pharmaceutical or nutritional composition according to claim 22 formed from about 0.05 to 20% of said powdered composition.

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